Providence. Dec 12 '50.

Dear Sir

I have received a letter from Miss Carpenter of Bristol, in answer to mine; & she requests me to send you the portion of it relating to the subject matter of our correspondence. I send it, not to re-open the discussion, but by her request, & to do justice to the *parties* concerned. The underscoring is her own.

"I told Mr Estlin, as far as I can recollect, & in substance, just what you have stated as the tenor of your conversation with me; viz, that you thought that your family would feel obliged to withdraw their aid from the Bazaar, in consequence of your disapproval of the practice of the agents of lecturing during the hours of public worship, & leading people to disregard religious services" (meaning of course the stated & usual services of the day) – "that I asked you whether you would therefore dissuade me from contributing to it, & that you said, *by no means* – for that this was the only way in which we at a distance could bear our testimony to the cause, & that you would advise our doing as much as we could for it, while you could yourself determine your own *way* of helping the cause. This last part of the conversation, which I regret Mr E did not repeat, if he repeated any, *was my particular object in repeating to Mr E what you had said to me*, as I wished to show him *your earnestness* *in the cause*. Mr E asked me, whether I understood that the agents so lecturing were the appointed ones — & I said I understood that *they* were the regular agents of the society of which Mr May was secretary. — — This is my impression of what passed; & all the trouble that has arisen from it I must regret; but it shows how undesirable it is to repeat in writing what is said in conversation. — Since writing the above, I have read the extracts from the correspondence between you & Mr May, which has been sent by him to Mr Armstrong. I will beg you to assure Mr May, to whom please to show what I have here said, that so far from any remark you made to me at Bristol having had a tendency to give an unfair impression of the abolitionists, or to diminish my zeal in trying to help the cause of the slaves *through them*, they decidedly increased it, & made me feel at ease in stimulating my friends to send contributions, which I did not feel before. I thought that if one so earnest & serious as yourself, who evidently felt the same objections & difficulties that I did, felt that we were doing right in sending to the Bazaar, I need not hesitate. From the commencement of my sending, which I have done regularly since Mr May was in England, & hope to do, by way of bearing my testimony, till slavery is abolished, I have always distinctly stated that our offerings must be regarded as a tribute of sympathy to the cause, & to those who devote themselves to it, but by no means as a mark of the approval of the language constantly used by those who support it. I honor many abolitionists, whom I know, *most truly*; there are few for whom I have a warmer esteem than I have for some among them, believing them to be true & earnest in their devotion to the cause; & I believe them to be sincere disciples of Christ. But their language & tone of feeling appear to me frequently unchristian, & also—or rather, therefore—calculated to damage the cause, & to alienate many who in heart are with them. I cannot also but disapprove of the very censorious tone which they adopt towards those who differ from them in their mode of action. Various individuals among my friends who have been present at their meetings, have quite confirmed my own impressions from their own writings."—Be kind enough to show this to Mr May, but let it go no further beyond your own family circle. Very truly yours, Mary Carpenter."

My son is still lingering with us, but wholly confined to his room, & greatly reduced—yet quiet & happy.

I presume you have seen an admirable speech made in Chicago, in answer to Senator Douglas, by E. C. Larned (a young lawyer from this city) on the "Fugitive Slave Bill". It is one of the best I have read, & should be widely known.

With best wishes

Yours

E. B. Hall.

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R.I.

Samuel May, Jr.
Leicester
Mass:

No. 6

Ms.B.1.6 v.4, p.17